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09/935,249

08/22/2001

John M. Baron

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10/23/2008

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

BODDIE, WILLIAM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte JOHN M. BARON and BETH M.P. DELANEY

Appeal 2008-2449
Application 09/935,249
Technology Center 2600

Decided: October 21, 2008

Before JAMESON LEE, SALLY C. MEDLEY and JAMES T. MOORE,
Administrative Patent Judges.

MEDLEY, *Administrative Patent Judge.*

DECISION ON APPEAL

A. Statement of the Case

Hewlett Packard Development Company L.P. (“HP”), the real party in interest, seeks review under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) of a Final Rejection of claims 1-20, the only claims remaining in the application on appeal. We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b). We affirm-in-part and enter a new ground of rejection.

HP describes an image capturing device with a display, a graphical selection indicator and an acceleration sensor. The graphical selection indicator can be moved in accordance with the acceleration detected by the acceleration sensor. Abs., Spec. 4-5.

Representative claim 1, reproduced from the Claim Appendix of the Appeal Brief¹, reads as follows:

1. An image capturing device, comprising:
 - at least one acceleration sensor capable of detecting an acceleration motion of said device along at least one axis and generating an acceleration signal in response;
 - a display that includes a graphical selection indicator that is capable of being moved in said display to select from among a plurality of displayed icons;
 - a processor communicating with said at least one acceleration sensor and said display;
 - wherein said processor receives said acceleration signal and moves said graphical selection indicator in response to said acceleration signal.

The Examiner relies on the following prior art in rejecting the claims on appeal:

Silverbrook et al. (“Silverbrook”)	6,405,055	Jun. 11, 2002
Feinstein	6,466,198	Oct. 15, 2002

¹The Appeal Brief referred to hereinafter is the Appeal Brief filed 27 December 2004.

Thomas

6,567,101

May 20, 2003

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as follows:

1. Claims 1-20 as unpatentable over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook;
2. Claims 1-3 and 13-19 as unpatentable over Thomas and Silverbrook.

B. Findings of Fact (“FF”)

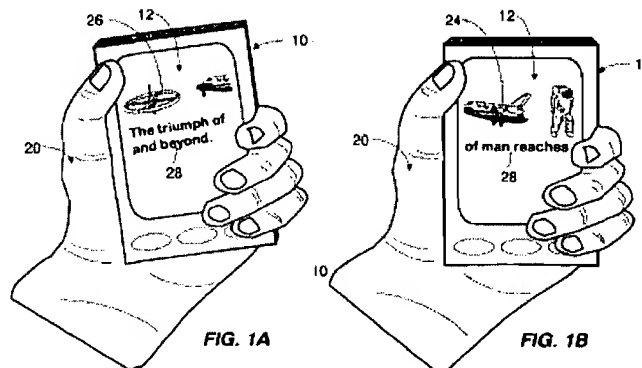
Definition

1. An icon is defined as “[a]n image; a representation”. THE AM. HERITAGE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (4th ed. 2004).

Feinstein

2. Referring to figures 1A-1B below [numbers from **figures 1A-1B** inserted], Feinstein describes a handheld device [10] with a display [12] that enables a user to navigate a virtual display by moving his hand. Col. 5, ll. 41-60.
3. When the handheld device [10] is set in the view navigation mode, the display view is automatically scrolled by a micro-controller 100 to follow the movements of the hand. Col. 5, ll. 32-39; col. 7, ll. 41-44.

Figures 1A and 1B from Feinstein are reproduced below.



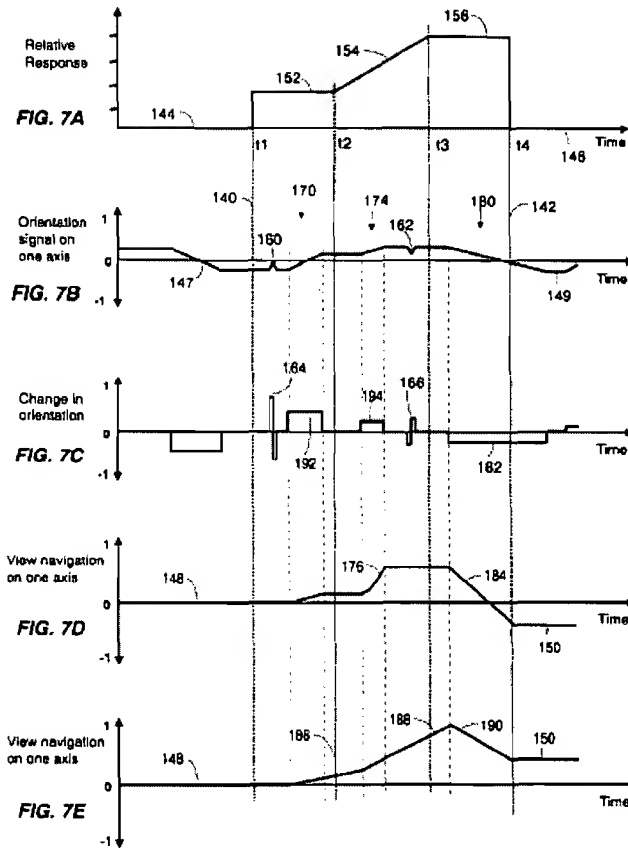
Figures 1A and 1B depict a handheld device and a scrolling virtual display.

4. Feinstein describes a software program for controlling the scrolling of the display view. Col. 7, ll. 50-51; fig. 6

5. The software program includes a polling process performed several times a second and an initialization step in which the current boundary of the display view is marked in comparison to the virtual display stored in memory. Col. 7, ll. 50-55.
6. Once the handheld device is set in the view navigation mode, the pitch and roll data are acquired, stored and compared to the previous reading. Col. 7, ll. 56-63.
7. If a change in orientation is detected, the program computes a new boundary for the view, refreshes the display to show the new view and saves the new current orientation for comparison with the next iteration of the process. Col. 7, l. 63-col. 8, l. 2.
8. The program can be set with different response curves for computing a new boundary in response to changes in the orientation, such as fine and course modes of response. Col. 8, ll. 6-14.
9. Other response curves may be a fixed value, or may toggle from fine to coarse navigation. Col. 9, ll. 31-33.
10. Referring to figures 7A-7C and 7E below [characters from **7A-7C** and **7E** inserted], Feinstein describes an example relative response curve that is setup onto the program, with the fixed mode (i.e., a fixed non-scrolling display) operating for time periods [144] and [146] and the view navigation mode beginning at time [t1]. Col. 8, ll. 40-col. 9, ll. 10.
11. The program is set for fine navigation [152] (i.e., a slow relative response) for the time period between [t1] and [t2], the relative response increases between time [t2] and [t3], and is set for course navigation [154] (i.e. a fast relative response) between time [t3] and [t4]. Col. 8, ll. 15-51.

12. A continuous mode of operation keeps the view navigating at the rate and direction which was already established during the last valid orientation change. Col. 9, ll. 4-7.
13. During period [170] an orientation change [190] is detected and the view is slowly navigated [186] (corresponding to fine navigation [152]) in response and continues to navigate in the same direction until a change in orientation [194] occurs again in period [174]. Col. 9, ll. 7-12.
14. A new navigation rate [188] in the same direction but at a rate responsive to the reduced orientation rate change in period [174] is multiplied by the increased relative response at [154] and continues until period [180]. Col. 9, ll. 12-15.
15. During course navigation [156] a relatively slow orientation change [182] results in a rapid navigation [190] of the view. Col. 9, ll. 15-18.
16. The program employs a minimum response threshold to allow the navigation to stop when the operator slightly reverses the direction of orientation. Col. 18, ll. 18-22.
17. Feinstein depicts in figure 7E that the view navigation continues by reversing direction at [190] (i.e., a negative slope) in response to a change in orientation [182]. Col. 9, ll. 17-22.
18. Feinstein does not depict in figure 7E that the navigation stops (i.e., a slope of zero) in response to a change in orientation [182].

Figures 7A-7E from Feinstein are reproduced below.



Figures 7A-E depict the relative response curve to changes in orientation and corresponding changes in view navigation.

Thomas

19. Thomas describes a digital information appliance that may be used to view and interact with both text and graphics. Col. 3, ll. 42-44.
20. The digital information appliance may be used as an Internet viewing appliance to navigate through the Internet. Col. 1 ll. 14-18; col. 3, ll. 37-42.
21. The acceleration of the digital information appliance is detected and an acceleration signal is generated in response. Col. 4, ll. 39-46.
22. A cursor 506 on the display is manipulated in response to movement of the digital information appliance. Col. 6, l. 66-col.7, l. 59; figs. 5A-5C.

23. The cursor 506 (i.e., graphical display indicator) moves and the display scrolls at a rate proportional to the amount of detected movement. Col. 4, ll. 31-38; claims 10, 20.
24. Thomas describes that in the prior art users typically use input devices including touch screens to manipulate displayed data. Col. 1, ll. 21-27.
25. Thomas teaches that adding additional input devices arranged on a device necessitates both an increase in the volume and an increase in the surface area of the device. Col. 1, ll. 36-39.

Schrock et al. (“Schrock”)

26. Schrock describes a method for an image capturing device including displaying on touch screen display 22 a plurality of mode variables (i.e., mode 29, flash 27, shutter 28). Col. 2, ll. 53-61; fig. 2.
27. The graphical selection indicator (i.e., finger or stylus input device 24) moves among the plurality of mode variables. Col. 1, ll. 9-24; col. 2, ll. 53-64; col. 4, ll. 6-12; col. 5, ll. 1-50.

D. Principles of Law

“In the patentability context, claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretations. Moreover, limitations are not to be read into the claims from the specification.” *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 1184 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (citation omitted).

“Absent claim language carrying a narrow meaning, the PTO should only limit the claim based on the specification or prosecution history when those sources expressly disclaim the broader definition.” *In re Bigio*, 381 F.3d 1320, 1325 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (citations omitted).

[T]he examiner bears the initial [examination] burden, on review of the prior art or on any other ground, of presenting a *prima facie* case of unpatentability. If that burden is met, the

burden of coming forward with evidence or argument shifts to the applicant.

After evidence or argument is submitted by the applicant in response, patentability is determined on the totality of the record, by a preponderance of evidence with due consideration to persuasiveness of argument.

In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

E. Analysis

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 7-8 over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbook

Claims 1-3 and 7-8 stand or fall together with respect to the rejection over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbook. App. Br. 12-13, 17-19, 22.

Independent claim 1 recites “a graphical selection indicator that is capable of being moved in said display to select from among a plurality of displayed icons . . .”. App. Br. 24.

HP argues that Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations. App. Br. 12. Particularly, HP argues that Thomas does not inherently disclose a plurality of icons and does not describe that cursor 506 is used to select from a plurality of icons. App. Br. 6-9 and Reply Br.² 2-3.

We broadly construe the term “icons” as representations or images. Our construction is consistent with the definition of an icon. FF³ 1. HP has not directed us to evidence of a disclaimer of the broader definition of “icons.” Thomas describes a digital information appliance for viewing and interacting with both graphics and text. FF 19. We find that the term graphics meets the broadest reasonable interpretation of icons since a graphic is also an

² The Reply Brief referred to hereinafter is the Supplemental Reply Brief filed 25 October 2007.

³ FF denotes Finding of Fact.

image or representation. In addition, HP has not addressed the Examiner's finding that Thomas describes using the digital information appliance to view and interact with graphics. Ans. 6-7. Since Thomas describes graphics (i.e., more than one graphic) we are unpersuaded by HP's arguments that Thomas does not describe a plurality of icons.

HP's argument that Thomas does not describe that cursor 506 *is used to select* from a plurality of icons is not commensurate in scope with the claim limitations. Claim 1 only requires that the graphical selection indicator is *capable* of being moved in the display to select from a plurality of displayed icons. App. Br. 24. A capability to perform a task is not the same as actually performing the task.

In any event, we find that it is at least obvious that Thomas' cursor 506 is capable of being moved in the display to select from a plurality of displayed icons or graphics. Thomas describes that the digital information appliance can be an Internet viewing appliance. FF 20. Thomas also describes that the digital information appliance is used to view and interact with (i.e., act together or toward) graphics. FF 19. Viewing the Internet entails viewing web pages that display graphics. Thomas describes manipulating (i.e., moving, arranging, controlling) the display of a cursor 506 on the display in response to movement of the digital information appliance. FF 22. Thus, when the Internet viewing appliance displays a web page with graphics, a user can move the display of the graphical selection indicator on the displayed web page; thereby interacting with the graphics. Merely by moving the cursor 506 in close proximity to an individual graphic displayed on the web page, a user is selecting or choosing the graphic. We note that the term "select" requires no more than an indication of a choice or pick; it

does not require a depression of a button. Therefore, we find that it is at least obvious that Thomas's cursor 506 is capable of being moved in the display to select from a plurality of icons or graphics.

For all these reasons, we find that HP has not sustained its burden of showing that the Examiner erred in rejecting appealed claims 1-3 and 7-8 as unpatentable over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook.

Since we have determined that the claims are unpatentable on the basis of Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook, we need not and will not consider the rejection based on Thomas and Silverbrook.

Rejection of claims 9 and 11-12 over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook

Claims 9 and 11-12 stand or fall together. App. Br. 13-14, 20, 22. Independent claim 9 recites "a graphical selection indicator . . . to select from among a plurality of displayed icons . . .". App. Br. 25-26.

HP argues that Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations. App. Br. 14. As explained before, we find that the plurality of displayed icons read on Thomas' graphics. Also, as explained before, we find that it is obvious that cursor 506 is a graphical selection indicator that is capable of selecting from among the plurality of icons.

Claim 9 also recites "a memory . . . storing a predetermined threshold and storing a slew rate variable; wherein said processor moves said graphical selection indicator in response to said acceleration signal if said acceleration signal exceeds said predetermined threshold, and wherein a movement speed of said

graphical selection indicator is controlled by said slew rate.” App. Br. 25-26.

First, HP argues that Feinstein does not describe that the “processor moves said graphical selection indicator . . . if said acceleration signal exceeds said predetermined threshold” (emphasis in original). Reply Br. 6. Particularly, HP argues that Feinstein describes “a minimum response threshold to allow the navigation to stop when the operator slightly reverses direction of orientation.” Reply Br. 6. HP further argues that Feinstein describes the opposite of the requirements of claim 9 because if a user slightly reverses the direction of orientation, (i.e., the acceleration signal is less than a minimum threshold) the navigation is stopped. Reply Br. 6.

We agree with HP that Feinstein describes a minimum response threshold that allows the navigation to stop when the operator slightly reverses the direction of orientation. FF 16. However, Feinstein also describes a continuous mode of operation that keeps the view navigating at the rate and direction which was already established. FF 12. If, as HP argues, Feinstein’s navigation stops if the acceleration signal is less than a minimum response threshold, then it should also be true, or at least obvious, that the navigation does not stop (i.e., continues) when the acceleration signal exceeds the same minimum response threshold. In addition, Feinstein does not depict in figure 7E that the navigation stops (i.e., a slope of zero) in response to a change in orientation [182]. FF 18. Instead, Feinstein depicts in figure 7E that the view navigation continues by reversing direction at [190] (i.e., a negative slope) in response to a change in orientation [182]. FF 17. Since Feinstein describes that the navigation continues by reversing direction, the change in orientation must be more than a slight change, and

therefore must exceed the minimum response threshold. As a result, we are unpersuaded by HP's arguments that Feinstein describes the exact opposite of the requirements of claim 9.

Second, HP argues that Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook do not teach or suggest "a memory . . . storing a slew rate variable . . . wherein a movement speed of said graphical selection indicator is controlled by said slew rate." App. Br. 16.

Feinstein describes a software control program that controls the movement of a scrolling display view of text and graphics based on the orientation of the display. FFs 2-8. The control program can be set with different response curves. FF 9. Feinstein provides a response curve that includes both a fine navigation response, where there is a relatively slow response to changes in orientation, and a course navigation response, where there is a relatively fast response to changes in orientation, such as depicted in Feinstein's figure 7A. FFs 10-15. We find that HP's slew rate variable reads on Feinstein's response curves that are used to control the movement of the scrolling display. However, Feinstein does not describe moving a graphical selection indicator. Thomas describes both moving a cursor 506 (i.e., graphical display indicator) and scrolling a display at a rate proportional to the amount of detected movement. FF 23. The Examiner determined that it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Thomas' moving means for moving the graphical selection indicator in Feinstein's device since Thomas' moving means can be used for moving a graphical selection indicator in addition to scrolling a display. Final Rejection 3, Ans. 6. Thus, as combined by the Examiner, the Feinstein and Thomas device utilizes

Feinstein's software control program including the response curves (i.e., slew rate variable) to control movement of the cursor 506 (i.e., graphical selection indicator) in addition to controlling the scrolling of the display. As a result, we are unpersuaded by HP's arguments that Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook do not teach or suggest a "a memory . . . storing a slew rate variable . . . wherein a movement speed of said graphical selection indicator is controlled by said slew rate."

For all these reasons, we find that HP has not sustained its burden of showing that the Examiner erred in rejecting appealed claims 9 and 11-12 as unpatentable over Feinstein, Thomas, and Silverbrook.

Rejection of claim 4 over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1. App. Br. 24. Claim 4 is substantially similar to claim 9 in reciting "a memory . . . storing a predetermined threshold and said graphical selection indicator is moved in response to said acceleration signal only if said acceleration signal exceeds said predetermined threshold." App. Br. 24.

For the same reasons as explained above with respect to the predetermined threshold limitations of claim 9, we find that HP has not sustained its burden of showing that the Examiner erred in rejecting appealed claim 4 as unpatentable over Feinstein, Thomas, and Silverbrook.

Rejection of claim 6 over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook

Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1. App. Br. 25. Claim 6 is substantially similar to claim 9 in reciting "a memory . . . storing a slew rate variable, wherein a movement speed of said graphical selection indicator is controlled by said slew rate". App. Br. 25.

For the same reasons as explained above regarding the slew rate variable limitations of claim 9, we find that HP has not sustained its burden of showing that the Examiner erred in rejecting appealed claim 6 as unpatentable over Feinstein, Thomas, and Silverbrook.

Rejection of claims 5 and 10 over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook

Claims 5 and 10 are dependent on claims 1 and 9 respectively. App. Br. 19-20, 25-26. Claims 5 and 10 differ from the limitations of claims 4 and 9 in requiring the predetermined threshold to be “user-adjustable”. App. Br. 25-26.

HP argues that Feinstein, Thomas or Silverbrook do not teach or suggest a user-adjustable predetermined threshold. App. Br. 19-20. The Examiner has not directed us to, and we can not find, where Feinstein, Thomas or Silverbrook describe a user-adjustable predetermined threshold.

For this reason, we find that the Examiner erred in rejecting appealed claims 5 and 10 as obvious over Feinstein, Thomas, and Silverbrook.

Rejection of Claims 13-20

Claim 13 is independent with claims 14-20 dependent therefrom. App. Br. 26-27. Claim 13 recites “displaying a plurality of mode variables . . . and moving a graphical selection indicator among said plurality of mode variables in response to said acceleration signal”. App. Br. 26-27.

The Examiner finds that Thomas teaches displaying a plurality of modes such as the Internet, an electronic book, an organizer or the like and inherently teaches displaying a plurality of icons which represent a plurality of applications (mode variables). Ans. 7, citing Thomas col. 1, ll. 14-18.

HP argues the Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook do not teach the aforementioned claim limitations. App. Br. 16-17. HP argues that the

proper claim construction of the term “mode variable” is “a setting that the user can change during operation of the image capturing device.” App. Br. 10 and Reply Br. 4, citing HP ¶ 0036. HP further argues that the Examiner has not provided any reasoning for equating a “mode variable” with an icon that represents an application, and has not directed us to any evidence that supports finding that a “mode variable” reads on an icon representing an application. Reply Br. 4.

We decline to read claim limitations from HP’s Specification to interpret “mode variables” as narrowly as HP urges. However, we also decline to construe a mode variable so broadly as to encompass an icon. Instead, we broadly construe a mode variable as a variable relating to an operating mode of a device.

The Examiner has not directed us to, and we can not find, where Thomas describes moving a graphical selection indicator among a plurality of mode variables (i.e., variables relating to an operating mode of the device). As explained above with respect to the discussion of claim 1, Thomas describes graphics. While we find that the claim 1 limitation of “icons” is met by Thomas’ graphics, we do not find that “mode variables” is met by Thomas’ graphics.

For these reasons, we reverse the decision of the Examiner in rejecting claims 13-20 as obvious over Feinstein, Thomas and Silverbrook and also reverse the decision of the Examiner in rejecting claims 13-19 as obvious over Thomas and Silverbrook. We enter a new ground of rejection.

New Ground of Rejection

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrock (5,923,908) and Thomas.

Schrock describes a method for an image capturing device including displaying (on touch screen display 22) a plurality of mode variables (mode 29, flash 27, shutter 28). FF 26. Schrock further describes moving a graphical selection indicator (finger or stylus input device 24) among the plurality of mode variables. FF 27.

Although Schrock fails to teach generating an acceleration signal in response to detecting the acceleration of the device and moving a graphical selection indicator in response to the acceleration signal, attention is directed to Thomas. Thomas teaches detecting the acceleration of a hand held device and generating an acceleration signal in response. FF 21. Thomas teaches that displayed data can be manipulated by moving a graphical selection indicator (i.e., cursor 506) in response to movement of the digital information appliance. FF 22. Thomas also describes that in the prior art users typically use input devices including touch screens to manipulate displayed data. FF 24. Thomas teaches that adding additional input devices arranged on a device necessitates both an increase in the volume and an increase in the surface area of the device. FF 25.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute Thomas' manipulating displayed data by controlling the display of a cursor with an acceleration signal for Schrock's manipulation of displayed data with a touch screen since Thomas teaches that adding additional input devices (i.e., a touch screen) increases the volume and surface area of a device. The Supreme Court has reaffirmed the principle that "[t]he combination of familiar elements according to known methods is likely to be obvious when it does no more than yield predictable results." *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1739 (2007). This is such a case.

F. Decision

Upon consideration of the record, and for the reasons given, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Thomas, Silverbrook and Feinstein is affirmed and the rejection of claims 5, 10 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Thomas, Silverbrook and Feinstein is reversed.

This decision contains a new ground of rejection pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b). 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b) provides "[a] new ground of rejection pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered final for judicial review." 37 CFR § 41.50(b) also provides that the appellant, WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE DECISION, must exercise one of the following two options with respect to the new ground of rejection to avoid termination of the appeal as to the rejected claims:

(1) *Reopen prosecution*. Submit an appropriate amendment of the claims so rejected or new evidence relating to the claims so rejected, or both, and have the matter reconsidered by the examiner, in which event the proceeding will be remanded to the examiner. . . .

Appeal 2008-2449
Application 09/935,249

(2) *Request rehearing.* Request that the proceeding be reheard under § 41.52 by the Board upon the same record. . . .

AFFIRMED IN-PART
New Ground of Rejection - 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b)

MAT

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Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/935,249	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination of a Patent Appeal No. 2008-2449	
	Examiner William Boddie	Art Unit 2600	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,923,908	07/1999	Schrock, A.	396/085
	B				
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	Definition of "Icon", Am. Heritage Dictionary of the Eng. Lang., 4 th Ed., 2004
	V	
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i·con  (ī'kŏn') Pronunciation Key

n.

1. also **i·kon** (ī'kŏn')
 - a. An image; a representation.
 - b. A representation or picture of a sacred or sanctified Christian personage, traditionally used and venerated in the Eastern Church.
2. An important and enduring symbol: *"Voyager will take its place ... alongside such icons of airborne adventure as The Spirit of St. Louis and [the] Bell X-1" (William D. Marbach).*
3. One who is the object of great attention and devotion; an idol: *"He is ... a pop icon designed and manufactured for the video generation" (Harry F. Waters).*
4. *Computer Science* A picture on a screen that represents a specific file, directory, window, option, or program.

[From Greek eikōn, from eikenai, to be like, seem.]

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icon

1572, "image, figure, representation," from L.L. icon, from Gk. eikon "likeness, image, portrait," related to eikenai "be like, look like." Eastern Church sense is attested from 1833. Computing sense first recorded 1982.

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